

7. NEW RECORD OF INDIAN GERBILLE, *TATERA INDICA*
(HARDWICKE) AS A PREDATOR ON THE ALATE FORMS
OF THE TERMITES AT LUDHIANA (PUNJAB)

During July 1973, the Indian gerbille, *Tatera indica* (Hardwicke) was seen preying on winged termites at 9.00 p.m. under a tube light on the main road of the Punjab Agricultural University, at Ludhiana. Most of the time the whole insect was taken but in a few cases the wings were rejected. Very rarely the fore paws were used to catch the prey. The gerbille was so preoccupied that even a collision with the observer did not distract it and only stampings of the foot on the road, made it sense the presence of the observer and

it ran away into the bushes. During the period of observation of about 10 minutes, the rat continuously caught the insects. When the observer again came to the same site after 30 minutes, the rat was again preying on the insects. It was however more alert and quickly ran away.

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8. REPRODUCTIVE ACTIVITY OF *MUS* SPP. IN CROP FIELDS AT
LUDHIANA¹

The knowledge of the reproductive activity of a pest is necessary for devising efficient control measures. The reproductive activity of the field-mice has not been studied in detail in India so far. The information collected on the subject during the years 1968-1972, is presented here.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

In 1968-69, individuals of *Mus musculus bactrianus* Blyth were observed near stacked harvested crops and in burrows for the presence of young and field collected females were reared or dissected to determine pregnancies.

¹Based on M.Sc. and Ph.D. thesis of the senior author, presently Research Assistant.

Traps were laid from December 1970 to November 1972 for 10-day periods in the first fortnight of each month in different crops at a 100-m distance from one another in a 53-ha cultivated area on the Ludhiana Farm of the Punjab Agricultural University. The trapped individuals were examined for sex, position of testes (scrotal or abdominal) in males and of vagina (perforate or imperforate) in females. When the testes were abdominal, the black-loose skin of the scrotum indicated that they were earlier scrotal. In the absence of black loose scrotal skin the abdominal condition of the testes indicated that the specimen was sub-adult and as evidenced by the senior author's study on the post-natal development of this species (Mann 1969) the scro-